WHIRRAKEE

November 2004 Vol. 25 No.10

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
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Office Bearers for 2004 - 2005

President	Matthew Comer	46 Railway Place, Goornong	5432 2380
Senior Vice President	Stuart Fraser	12 Bambara Close, Bendigo	
Junior Vice President	vacant		
Secretary	Bill Holsworth	13 Nabilla Crs, Bendigo	5443 4063
		e-mail:wholsworth@bigpond.com	
Minute Secretary	Jane Cleary	24 Goynes Road, Epsom	5448 4396
	Jan Orr	2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo	5443 5668
Treasurer	Stuart Fraser		
Membership Officer	Kate Lottkowitz	80 Piccaninny Rd, RSD Strathfieldsaye	5439 3157
Excursion organiser	done by the committee		
Syllabus organiser	Rod Orr	2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo	5443 5668
Librarian	Diana Collier	31 Milroy Street, Bendigo	5443 0137
Garden Convenor/Secretary	Matthew Comer	46 Railway Place, Goornong	5432 2380
Hall Management	Maurie Lewis		0407 427179
Whirrakee contact	Sabine Wilkens	82 Somerville Street, Bendigo	5443 2797
		e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au	

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm.
The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Rob Moors, Maurie Lewis, Glenise Moors, Rod Orr, Bob Ruddick, and there are 3 vacancies.

Excursions Excursions are conducted irregularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one active group that meets regularly (the Fauna Study Group) and other groups that meet at irregular intervals.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.
Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observers Group: This group has field excursions and the occasional lecture evening. Please consult the *Whirrakee* for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose meetings or excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front Cover Photographer: Tom Burton
This picture was taken while looking up through the canopy of a Queensland rainforest at a fan palm. For more tropical pictures see Tom's article on page 5.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club
Vol. 25, No.10, November 2004

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles.
Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's note
We are coming up to a very social part of the year which make for a nice but busy time. To add to the busyness, BFNC has several get-togethers planned over the next few weeks. The fauna group has a frog pond BBQ, then there is the Christmas dinner and the annual lunch at Jack Ipsen's place. The dates are all given in this edition, so please put them in your diaries now.
Because there is no Whirrakee in January, please submit any announcements for excursions or meetings that are happening up until February for the next (December) edition.

BFNC Garden Working Bee

This year we needed regular garden working bees and they were usually held on the Saturday before each general meeting, at 9am. With the recent rains maintenance requirements have increased and weeds are proliferating.

The next working bee will be on **Saturday 6th November, 9am**. It will involve weeding and general maintenance which should be mostly light work.

All welcome

October General Meeting I - Speaker Phil Dyson: My Kamarooka Story

by Sabine Wilkens

The landforms of the Kamarooka region, its soils, plants and animals, and how all these fit together have been the subject of much of Phil Dyson's long career in this region. The club was fortunate to have him share his knowledge and passion for this area at the October General meeting.
In the 1970s, Phil was instrumental in getting many boreholes drilled throughout the cleared and uncleared area of the Kamarooka, and understanding what is happening with the ground water in relation to the landscape has occupied him ever since.

Kamarooka, located at the northern edge of the Whipstick forest, is at the margins between the riverine plain and the great dividing range. Its bedrock is shale, slate and sandstone and the uplands disappear to the north underneath the riverine plain deposits.

This is an ancient landscape, 60-70 mio years old and the boreholes, which in places go down to 80m, traverse the history of the region. One of the prominent horizons is kaolinite, a very light coloured soft rock that results from the weathering of sandstone and shale. This layer is also called the pallid zone and it can be up to 50m in thickness. Overlying this material is usually laterite or ferricrete, a hard layer that does not allow much penetration of ground water. Below the pallid zone is the weathering zone followed by the bedrock.
So the Kamarooka region is a soft landscape with a hard skin. In places, the kaolinite is exposed, in other places it has been eroded, and Phil believes the remaining native vegetation matches what is left of the profile. Grey Box grows on the deeply weathered profiles and mallee in places where the pallid zone has disappeared and only weathered rock is exposed.

Salt is a prominent feature of the soils here. The origin of most of the salt is rain water that has fallen on the undisturbed landscape for millions of year, bringing several kilograms of salt per ha per year with it. This sort of salt load (2-3000 tons per ha) does not cause any harm to plants if out of reach of their root zone. However excessive clearing of the region has caused a rise in the water table bringing with it the salt that is now affecting plants.
The water table under the still forested areas is lower, 30m or so beneath ground level. However is is steadily rising and this has been attributed to the head of the water table in the cleared areas (which is situated much higher) flowing down towards the level in the forest. The rise is about 1m every 10 years an it will be a long time before trees in the centre of the forest will be affected by the salt. Marginal forest areas however might experience salt damage a lot earlier if this rise continues.

The good news is that much work to stop or reverse the spread of salt and the ongoing loss of soil is occurring at present. Deep ripping, seeding with native grass and saltbush planting are some of the activities that have earned the Northern United Forestry Group the prestigious National Landcare Research Award.
The area continues to be a magnet for field naturalists – only recently an excursion organised by the bird group went there.
Phil showed some wonderful satellite images which have recently been released by NASA (it sounds as if these are publicly available on the web).
It was a wonderful and informative talk about an area obviously close to the heart of the speaker and also many club members.

October General Meeting II
Ecological Fire Plan for Bendigo

by Sabine Wilkens

Apart from our scheduled speaker, Phil Dyson, two brave DSE officers also faced the last general meeting, Kane Weeks (acting fire

prevention officer, soon back to his normal role as Park Ranger) and Andrew Greystone (acting emergency response manager for the region). Their aim was to talk about the development of an ecological fire management plan and call for input from the club to provide on-ground information of areas of special significance that need to be taken into consideration.
Parks Victoria and the Department of Sustainability and Environment have received extra funding for fire management positions in the region and this is why input from the community is called for now.
A fire management plan of proposed fuel reduction burn sites in the region already exists. 8000ha is planned for burning in the Bendigo District in the next three years. A draft Fire Operations Plan is available on the DSE website (www.dse.vic.gov.au).

Several questions to the speakers related to the enormous damage done to the Whipstick flora, particularly the Whirrakee Wattle some years ago when a wide strip was burned to stop a potential wildfire from the north coming into Bendigo. The Whirrakee Wattle still has not recovered form this action and it looks as if further burns are planned for the Whipstick.
Kane replied, saying that this sort of information is exactly what he needs to take on board when designing the ecological fire plan. He will be back at this month's general meeting to collect as much information from club members as possible. So if you have information about fire sensitive flora and fauna, or sites that need fire exclusion for other reason, or knowledge of previous ecological damage by fire let him know then.
There might just be the odd question about the recent burning of Jackass Flat. It will remain to be seen how much notice is actually taken of concerns expressed about the flora and fauna when this is in direct conflict with other aims of fuel reduction burning.
Still here is hoping...
If you cannot attend the general meeting this month, you can also leave any related information or concerns at the DSE Fire Management division (Cnr Midland Highway and Taylor Street, Epsom) on 0354446653 or with Kane Weeks directly on 54304653.

Bendigo Field Naturalists on the web
Some people may be interested in this message from James Marshall to Bill Holsworth .....any ideas are welcome

...I have put together what I could in the time I have had and have entered the web site into the competition as it stands at the moment. If you have any problems, comments or additional information the Field Nats would like to make to the website, I am more than happy to add, delete or change the site accordingly. If the Field Nats are happy with the web site and feel as though it will benefit the organization I am more than happy to keep maintaining the site.
Have a look at it:
http://communitysites.impulse.net.au/bendigofieldnaturalists/fnats.html

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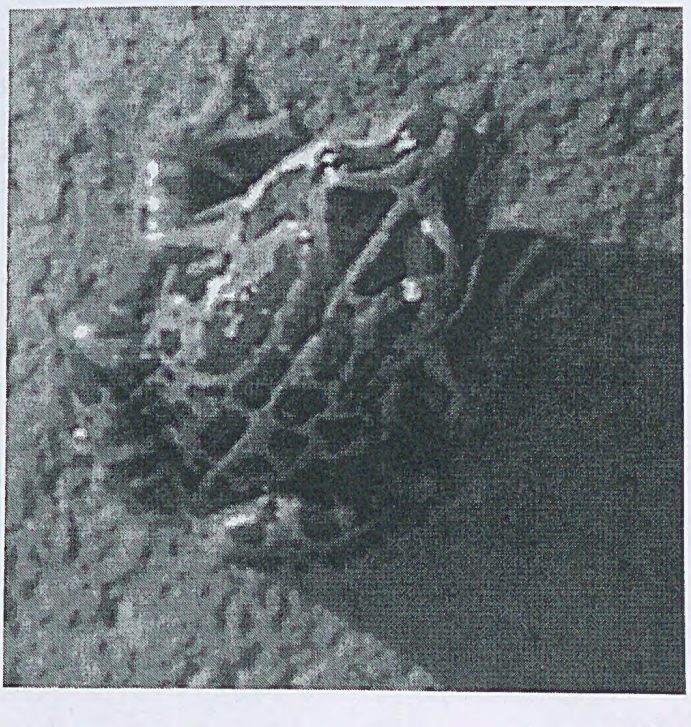
The Marbled or Spotted Grass Frog

by Tom Burton

The Marbled Frog or Spotted Grass Frog *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis* is widespread over much of Australia, from Tasmania to the swamps north of Normanton Qld. Its call consists of a number of clicks: one click per call in southern Victoria; five clicks per call in Adelaide: and any number between one and five around Bendigo. The effect of a chorus of these male frogs is that of a machine gun firing.
The Marbled Frog makes a foam nest about 50 mm in diameter. Males (like the one in the photograph) have yellow throats in breeding season, whereas the throat of a female is white; females can also be distinguished in breeding season by the flanges on the sides of their fingers, which are used to beat up the foam nest when they are laying their eggs.

This individual has a pale mid-dorsal stripe. This is common in Marbled Frogs, but it is not always present. This frog was just over 32 mm long, a typical size for a male Marbled Frog.



Sunrise over the Coral Sea. Every morning is different, every morning is spectacular

Gone Troppo

by Tom Burton

Port Douglas is a great holiday destination. The town, an hour's drive north of Cairns, is on a peninsula jutting northwards, with a beautiful sandy beach on the eastern side, and a harbour on the western side. The beach, hemmed in by sea and rain forest, extends seven km to the south, ending in a patch of mangroves. The main attraction of Port Douglas is its proximity to two world heritage areas-the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree Rainforest.

We lived near the south end of the beach, seven km from the "village", but a convenient walking distance to shops. Shortly after arriving, we headed off to the supermarket along a path whose wanderings included a 50m traverse through a gully, and on the path stood an Orange-footed Scrub-fowl, unmistakable with its chunky body and jaunty crest. I didn't get to see the colour of its feet at that time, because it wandered off into the rainforest, but I had plenty of chances later, because we encountered scrub-fowl many times both in Port Douglas and in the Daintree. The Brush Turkey was another bird we encountered often, wherever there was forest.

That same path to the supermarket took us past the entrance to "Habitat", a sort of Healesville Sanctuary for tropical flora and fauna. We had "Breakfast with the Birds" there next morning, a buffet breakfast under a huge canopy, with parrots and other birds zooming or strolling about. The set-up there is a very good - a wetlands walk and a rainforest walk gave us a good introduction to the area's birds and plants, and also helped the passage of the huge brekky.

Each morning, I walked the beach as the sun rose over the Coral Sea, changing the colours of the sea and sky, lighting up the casuarinas, coconut palms and broad-leafed forest trees, and revealing the beauty of the Rainbow Bee-eaters, Varied Honeyeaters, Sunbirds, and White-breasted Woodswallows. Out on the sandbars exposed by the low tides were massed newly arrived migratory waders ... but apart from a few waders that visited the beach (Eastern Curlew, Grey Plover), I could not possibly identify any of them in the glare of the rising sun and the shining sea.

On a few mornings, I ventured into the mangroves. These were unusual in my experience in growing in sand, hence lacking the evil smell I associate with mangroves. In the early morning light, with the tide out, this was a mysterious, magical place of tangled

aerial roots and pneumatophores. I did not expect to see anything there but mangroves and more mangroves, so a Whimbrel was a nice surprise, and an even greater surprise was a pigeon strolling within a few metres of me - a splendid male Emerald Dove. If you look up the Emerald Dove in a bird book, then multiply the delicacy of its blushing body plumage and the brightness of its green wings by ten, you will have some understanding of what a magnificent bird the Emerald Dove is.

On my last morning, I read one of the signs on the beach, near the mangroves. I had ignored this sign, because the beach has many yellow warning signs, mostly saying "Don't swim in the sea when 'stingers' (Box Jellyfish) are around", and pointing out the position of a vinegar bottle for first aid against a sting. However, this particular sign said, "Beware the Crocodiles". I found out later that the mangrove area was known as an excellent haven for crocs. I am glad I didn't know in advance, or I would never have seen the Emerald Dove.

After magical experiences on Yellow Waters in Kakadu and on the Paraná River in Argentina, I expected a boat ride up the Daintree River to be something to remember. However, as in Kakadu, the guide assumed that we would be obsessed with seeing crocs, and much of the time was spent seeking them out as they basked on the shore. Having seen as many crocs as I want to, thank you, I was much more interested in seeing riverine birds, but birds were few and far between. Highlights were a Mangrove Heron, sitting far too close to where a croc was basking, and a Brown Tree Snake, sitting in a Basket Fern. So that was disappointing. There is a boat operator who runs specialized trips for birdohs, but that boat was not running on the days we had a car to take us from Port Douglas to the river.

On those hire-car days, we ventured north, to the Daintree World Heritage Rainforest, which dates back to times when one could have driven to Africa (except that the oil was still being formed). We walked around Mossman Gorge, the excellent Discovery Centre north of the River, and a small boardwalk near the Discovery Centre. My goals were to see a Cassowary, or at least a Noisy Pitta. I held out little hope of either.

As is usual in rainforest, whether it be tropical or cool temperate, it was hard to find any bird at all at Mossman Gorge, but any bird found in tropical rainforest will be interesting, won't it! So I was excited by the slim pickings - Brush Turkey and Pale Yellow Robins mostly, until I saw a big green bird land in a tree across a valley. A parrot, obviously! "Obviously", until it raised its white, pigeon head above the foliage. Then, as it moved about, it revealed more details - yellow spots on the wings, then a black belly-no, not black - purple! No, not purple. As the sun hit its breast, a plum-coloured iridescence shone across the valley. And beneath the plum, cut off in a straight line, the lower belly was yellow. It was a Wompoo Fruit-Dove. Yippee!

At the Discovery Centre, there is a well-designed set of boardwalks, a very good interpretive centre (although I was too informationed out by the signs, the audio device and the guide book to be able to face any more interpretation by the time I got there), and, wonder of wonders, a multi-staged tower rising into the canopy of the forest. Here I would have been able to see fig parrots visiting the fruits of the Strangler Fig a few metres from the tower ... if any fig parrots had turned up. In fact, the highlights for me were the view of the incredibly varied canopy vegetation, so unlike the eucalypt rainforests of the south, and an Amethystine Python, asleep and coiled up on a branch of the fig next to the tower. This python is Australia's largest snake species, but its elaborate carpet-like pattern would make it a spectacular animal at any size.

Then we went, in gathering darkness (we were killing time north of the river, in order to miss rush hour on the ferry, 3pm to 6pm), we dropped into Jindalba boardwalk, with no great expectation of seeing anything but the usual superb fan palms, lawyer vines, epiphytes of several kinds, including orchids, fern gullies and other rainforest features. So a Shrike Thrush - probably a Little, possibly a Bower's - was a nice surprise. Now, write this in capitals in your notebook, and learn it by heart: "You see only what you are looking for, and you look for only what you know." Because I had not studied shrike thrushes in advance, I did not know that there were two rufous shrike thrush species in these rainforests, so I did not look for the important features like streaking on the breast and the colour of the beak; thus I did not see the features that distinguish the two species, and I shall never know which bird I saw.

However, when Cherry spotted a bird on the forest floor, there was no mistaking the Noisy

Pitta. Having learned the call of the Noisy Pitta from a ranger at the Discovery Centre (where you can also press on the photo of a bird and hear its call), I knew there were pittas about, but I had really given up hope of seeing one. And what a bird! It is dumpy and short-tailed, with green wings, a chestnut eyebrow above a black eye-band, and an extraordinary buff breast. The books say that the Noisy Pitta "hops" through the forest. That is such a bland statement. It is only when you see it hop that you see how bizarre is this dumpy, madly coloured bird bouncing along.

For a visitor to the north, hoping to see birds out of the ordinary, the best place to look is possibly the electric wires. As well as the House Sparrows, Common Mynas, and Spotted Turtle Doves, I saw Bar-shouldered and Peaceful Doves, Yellow Orioles, Figbirds (very common), Metallic Starlings, Spangled Drongos, Forest and Sacred Kingfishers, Laughing Kookaburras, and Magpie Larks.

Finally, in the world of meretricious advertising into which we are born, we soon learn that expectations are rarely met, that reality doesn't match hype. So when we took the Quicksilver catamaran out to Agincourt Reef, I fully expected to be disappointed. After all those TV specials we have seen, showing fantastically shaped, multicoloured corals and brightly coloured, finely patterned fish, I expected that maybe we might see one grey fish in the distance, and that the coral would also be grey and dismal.....

Well, on the contrary, the reef was brilliant in the sunlight-corals of all shapes, displaying blues, pinks, yellows, and greens-and the fish were numerous, very close, and as bright and as colourful as in any brochure or Attenborough presentation. The sea was bright blue and green, and just over there, where the waves were breaking, was the edge of the continental shelf. It was exciting to be there, and, just for once, reality exceeded expectation. I might just go out and buy the next thing I see advertised on TV after this!

A figbird feeding on a cantaloupe at the Habitat Centre

From the Mailbag
Author: Elaine Mathison

Each month the club receives a number of newsletters and magazines: some by subscription and some in exchange for Whirrakee. These are available from the club library.

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THE BIRD OBSERVER(BOCA)
August 2004

"Grebes" by Tania Ereton describes the appearance and various behaviours of one of the oldest types of birds. It is believed from fossil remains to have originated in Antarctica or in southern South America.

"Regent Honeyeater: a wattlebird in disguise?" reports on recent research into the honeyeater family. Four major groups have been identified.

"Flight to Lake Eyre" by Marlene Lyell describes an unexpected air trip from Melbourne to see the abundant bird life following flooding rain in Queensland.

"Who was Ned of Ned's Corner?" by Laurie Jones tells the story of Edward Mead Bagot who took up land along the Murray River in far north-west Victoria. However it is believed that the property was not named after him but rather for a shepherd on the property.

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PARKWATCH(VNPA)
September 2004

"Species Extinction: the tyranny of incremental habitat loss" by Jim Radford outlines the process which leads to the extinction of fauna species. Research is under way to find the level of habitat cover which leads to species decline.

"The Southern Ark Project: benefiting biodiversity through fox control" by Andrew Murray describes a systemic and thorough fox control program to be undertaken across a million hectares of public land in far eastern Victoria.

"Visiting the Little Desert, meeting Malleefowl" by Lisa Sulinski reports on a recent trip to the Little Desert National Park, with emphasis on the Malleefowl population.

"Tower Hill: the park that isn't" by Geoff Durham questions the anomaly of Tower Hill in Western Victoria being part of the National Estate but not a National Park.

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THE VICTORIAN NATURALIST(FNCV)
June 2004

This issue contains reports from the Fire Symposium held in Melbourne in 2003. Some of the topics raised were:

- Under the terms and conditions of the natural environment: it burnt where it snows
- Patterns of pre-European Aboriginal vegetation management by fire in South-eastern Australia: what do we know?
- Plant responses to fires
- Fire impacts on fauna
- Victoria's parks, forests and fire
- Community safety and biodiversity challenges

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Also received recently:

Castlemaine Naturalist(CFNC)

Ballarat Naturalist(BFNC)

Geelong Naturalist(GFNC)

Newsletter(Maryborough FNC)

Field Nats News(FNCV)

Land for Wildlife News

Fungimap Newsletter

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How much habitat is enough?

Planning for wildlife conservation at the landscape scale

What is the diversity of native animals in rural landscapes?
How much native vegetation do they need?
Is the pattern of vegetation in the landscape important?
How should we manage the landscape for their survival?

If these questions interest you, make sure you attend this seminar on the results of the 'Landscape Patterns Project'. Researchers from Deakin University have spent the past three years studying the relationship between the extent and pattern of native vegetation in the landscape and native animal populations. Results will be summarised in plain language with an emphasis on practical knowledge for those involved in natural resource management, wildlife ecology or landscape planning.

When: Tuesday 16 November

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm (followed by light refreshments)

Where: Events Room, North Central Goldfields Regional Library,
251-259 Hargreaves St, Bendigo

To attend: Contact Jim Radford (5430 4357 or Jim.Radford@dse.vic.gov.au)

Australian Government
Land & Water Australia

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

State Government Victoria
Department of Sustainability and Environment

South Eastern Australian Naturalists' Association
The next two Campouts.....

The Upper Goulburn FNC is planning an **Autumn Campout from Friday 11th March to Monday 14th March 2005**

The Upper Goulburn Field Naturalists Club invites you to attend the SEANA Autumn Campout situated in our beautiful farming, timber and tourist district, surrounded by wooded mountain and **close to picturesque Lake Eildon** and the winding Goulburn River. We are fortunate to have several National and State Parks close by and also a wealth of local small Reserves which support a great variety of birds all the year and many flowers in Spring.

Venue - Eildon Mountain Lodge is located 20km from Alexandra or 8km from Thornton at 515 Goulburn valley Highway. The actual Lodge is located behind the Eildon Holiday Resort, which is on the corner of the Goulburn valley Highway and the Snobs Creek Road.

Accommodation - The Lodge and a bunkhouse will accommodate up to 150 participants with car parking at your designated area. You will need to supply your own sleeping bags or sheet, doona/blankets, pillowcases and towels. (bottom sheets and pillows are provided). Camp participants have the use of the motel swimming pool.
Good motel units on site may be booked and paid for privately. Pone 03 5774 2415 for this option. please advise when booking hat you are attending the Field Naturalists Conference. Motel rooms are being held for us until 30th November 2004.

Catering - All meals provided from Friday dinner until Monday lunch. Special dietary requirements will be provided for and dining room in BYO with licenced premises on the site. Tea and coffee available as required.

Fuel is available at Alexandra and Eildon.

Facilities - There are no camp or caravan sites available at the Lodge. nearest are at Thornton Caravan Park. Phone 03 5773 2305, Eildon Caravan Park phone 0357742105, The Boulevard Caravan Park Eildon phone 03 5774 2128 or Blue Gums Caravan Park Back Road Eildon phone 03 5774 2567 (we advise immediate private booking if requiring a site).

Theme will be 'Exploring our Forests and Waterways'

Guest Speakers - Friday: Andy Miller (Chief Ranger, Parks Victoria, Eildon), Saturday: Dr Kevin Tolhurst (senior lecturer, Fire Ecology and Management, University of Melbourne), Sunday: speaker to be confirmed (Native Fish or Waterways).

Excursions - Will be lead by locals and visiting speakers into our forests at Eildon and Cathedral ranges Gobur, Alexandra and along parts of our Goulburn River and its tributaries. We are investigating an opportunity to participate in a 'behind the scenes' tour of the Snobs Creek Freshwater Discovery Centre. This would incur an additional fee and must be pre-booked.

Cost $174 for the full camp, $153 for the camp without the Friday night dinner, $20 registration fee (plus a fee for the possible tour at the Snobs Creek Discovery Centre). For BFNC members, these forms are available form the editor (S.Wilkens) or secretary (W.Holsworth). Contact numbers are on the inside front cover of the *Whirrakee.*

Bookings with full payment by 25th January 2005
Enquiries please direct to either Joan Edwards (Semmens), President, 20 Webster Street Alexandra 3714 phone 03 5772 1542 or Lorrain Pyke, Secretary, 149 Crystal Creek Road Alexandra 3714 phone 03 5772 1189.

2006 ANN Get-Together
Some time ago, we also received the first circular for the **2006 Australian Naturalists' Network Get-Together.** This will be hosted by SEANA and held in the Australian High Country from 16th January to 2nd February 2006.
Due to the pressure on accommodation during this time of year in the High Country, SEANA is looking for anybody who firmly knows that they will attending this event. If not enough people show interest at this stage, the accommodation cannot be booked.

If you are interested in responding at this stage, Bill Holsworth has copies of the response sheet required. This, along with a 50 dollar deposit needs to be sent off as soon as possible. The deposit money will be refunded should the get-together not go ahead due to lack of numbers.
It is estimated that the total cost will be about 1500 dollars for the 17 days (based on previous camps).

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, November 10 7.30pm
Speaker: Dan
Harley "Leadbeaters Possum in a Swamp'

Wednesday, December 8
Christmas Dinner starting about 6.30pm
Bring food and drink to share if you wish.
Speaker: Gerry Gill, "Interpreting the Regional Landscape".

Please note there is no General Meeting in January. The first meeting of the new year is in February and members are usually encouraged to bring their best holiday slides along.

Christmas Lunch at Jack Ipsen's Sunday December 12

Jack is again expecting our members and their families for the annual Christmas picnic at his property at Lyel Glen near Redesdale.
Please bring all your food and drink as well as a chair (if you need one). There are plenty interesting things to see before you sit down for lunch.
Please contact a committee member if you need instructions how to get there.

Fauna Group

This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Wednesday November 24 7.00pm
Annual Frog Pond B.B.Q. *Rain, Hail or Shine*
All Field Nat. members and friends are welcome
- Kangaroo Flat Botanical Garden, Camp Street Kangaroo Flat
- 7pm til last croak
- BYQ meat/alternative to cook, any salad, sweet, beverage or tall stories you wish to share
- BBQ hotplates available
- Also bring binoculars if interested in birds and a torch to attempt locate frogs via the triangulation method

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BFNC Garden Working Bee

This year we needed regular garden working bees and they were usually held on the Saturday before each general meeting, at 9am. With the recent rains maintenance requirements have increased and weeds are proliferating.

The next working bee will be on **Saturday 6th November, 9am.** It will involve weeding and general maintenance which should be mostly light work.

All welcome

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals.
It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Natural Resources and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.